

## WOOD DUCKS ATTEMPT CHIMNEY NESTING IN LIVINGSTON

In the early spring of 1961, I was approached by several residents of Livingston who told me they had seen large and unusual birds perched on their chimneys or those of their neighbors. A neighbor of mine said the ones on his chimney looked like a pair of ducks, and he could see the color red. Knowing that there is a domestic duck with red on the head, and that it can fly like a wild duck, also that there are some of these around Livingston, I concluded that this was what was being seen.

Later, a neighbor who owns a camp house near Livingston told me he had caught a male Wood Duck in the living room of his camp house. The bird had apparently come down the chimney, but I still did not connect this with the other episodes.

Still later, a lady who has an apartment in the center of town told me that she had been bothered with Chimney Swifts coming down her chimney into a fireplace which had been sealed up in her living room. When the fireplace was opened and cleaned out, they found a dead male Wood Duck.

In this section, the Wood Duck is one of our rarest and wildest birds. Feeling that they must be desperate for nesting sites, I hung three boxes in trees around my farm pond near Livingston. In one I landed a swarm of bees, in the second, a family of Fox Squirrels, and in the third, a family of Grey Squirrels--not exactly what I expected, but still I am very happy to have these interesting tenants.

--JENKINS JACKSON, Livingston, Ala.

(Ed. note--Possibly interesting others to provide boxes might bring positive nesting results.)

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-FROM THE TREASURER-

Just a reminder that 1962 dues of two dollars are overdue and will be considered delinquent after the April meeting. Anyone who is not sure of his status, please get in touch with Mrs. James Robinson. Come to the meeting in Birmingham, pay your dues, and start off the season with boundless enthusiasm that birds and their protection may be a vital force in your home town.

## OPENING OF DAUPHIN ISLAND SANCTUARY

Because of the interest and concerted efforts of the Mobile Chapter of A. O. S., spearheaded by the enthusiasm of Dr. Wilson Gaillard, and working with other public spirited groups on Dauphin Island and in Mobile, a new sanctuary for wildfowl has come into being on Dauphin Island.

Alligator Pond, a 10 acre swamp and water tract, has been excavated to make a beautiful fresh water lake. It is also renamed Lac d'Aisle. A second fresh water area that has been a gum swamp is being made available. An artesian well and spillway will permit control of water here, so that wild rice, millet and other food for waterfowl can be planted.

Many wildfowl have always used Dauphin Island as a resting place on migration or as a wintering facility, but food has not been sufficient to support the numbers en route, so many birds have been ill-equipped to start on the trans-gulf flight. As a result, the mortality rates must have been extremely high.

March 17 is the day set for the dedication of the new sanctuary. Although this is being written before that time, the Audubon Bird Sanctuary will be a reality before this announcement reaches your hands.

Dr. Gaillard points out that this sanctuary is a real community effort, and passes on credit to a number of groups who are cooperating. Among these are the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board; property owners on the island; members of the Mobile County Wildlife and Conservation Assn., who are underwriting the duck food to be planted; state Audubon groups, who are providing food for non-game birds; the Mobile County Commission, which made possible cleared food patches and tourist trails; the County Agent's office; garden club members and individuals who are donating shrubs, flowers, bird houses, minnows, crawfish, crickets, earthworms, and even bees, to pollinate the flowers and plants.

Those of us who know Dauphin Island rejoice in this accomplishment, and it may spur others to start projects of a similar nature in other areas of the state. It illustrates again, as our president has reminded us, that small groups dedicated to a cause can accomplish much.